



JANUARY EVENT

Monthly Meeting: Monday, January 13, 2025

Day Hall, at the Atlanta Botanical Garden

Gather at 7 p.m; Program starts at 7:30 p.m.

Chris Satch on orchid physiology

see details below

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging

Chris Satch: The Science of orchid care and blooming: understanding orchid physiology

Christopher Satch is a Professor at the New York Botanical Gardens; his research specializes in plant physiology and genetics. He is also the CEO and Founder of NYC Plant Help, a horticultural consultancy for indoor and outdoor growers in the greater New York area. He was featured on NPR, the Wall Street Journal, Architectural Digest, and more.

Chris breaks down the science behind growing plants and explains how plants grow in “human-understandable” terms. Having specialized in plant physiology and pathology, you can ask him any orchid growth, flowering, or culture

question, and he will know the answer. He is a member of the AOS Education/Tech Committee, has participated in the rewrite of the care and culture sheets for AOS. [Check them out!](#)

Chris grew up on a farm in northern NJ, and has been growing plants in rural, suburban, and urban environments. Chris currently grows over 200 plants on windowsills, in terrariums, and more in his tiny Manhattan apartment. His favorite orchids are *Cattleya* species, *Catasetinae*, *Miltoniopsis*, *Lepanthes*, and anything else that’s either odd or fragrant.



President’s Message

Dear Members of the Atlanta Orchid Society,

Happy New Year! It is with great excitement and gratitude that I address you as the newly elected President of the Atlanta Orchid Society for 2025. I hope this message finds you well and that your holidays were filled with joy, warmth, and perhaps a bloom or two or more from your cherished orchids.

As we embark on a new year together, I want to extend a heartfelt welcome to all our members, both returning and new.

Your passion for orchids and your commitment to our society are what make this community so vibrant and inspiring. I look forward to meeting many of you at our upcoming events and learning from each other as we continue to grow in our shared love of orchid culture.

This year promises to be an extraordinary one, filled with opportunities to deepen our knowledge, connect with fellow enthusiasts, and celebrate the beauty of orchids. Among the highlights of our 2025 calendar is our 63rd Annual Orchid Show, scheduled for March 7–9. This

event has long been a cornerstone of our society, and I am confident it will once again showcase the incredible talent and dedication of our members and orchid growers from near and far.

In addition to the show, our monthly meetings will feature a fantastic lineup of guest speakers who will share their expertise on various aspects of orchid care and cultivation. These presentations are always informative and engaging, providing valuable insights for growers at all

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Happy New Year, and it’s Time to Pay your Dues!

It is time to renew your membership with the Atlanta Orchid Society! Visit our new membership page at www.atlantaorchid-society.org/membership/

If in doubt, contact our treasurer, Edison Gu (hcg_edison@outlook.com)!

ATLANTA ORCHID SOCIETY**2025 Officers****President**[Firelli Alonso](#)**Vice-President/Programs**[Véronique Perrot](#)**Secretary**[Janet Sherwood](#)**Treasurer**[Edison Gu](#)**Immediate Past President**[Bailey Santwire](#)**2025 Trustees**[Barbara Barnett](#)[Kim Williams](#)[Jon Crate](#)[Danny Lentz](#)[Nick Rust](#)[Steve Schwab](#)**Volunteers****AOS Rep –** [Barbara Barnett](#)**Greengrowers –** [Danny Lentz](#)**Librarian –****MAOC Rep –** [Doug Hartong](#)**Meeting Hospitality –** [Dan Alvear](#)**Membership –** [Barbara Barnett](#)**Silent Auction –** [Carson Barnes](#)**Monthly Ribbon Judging –** [Barbara Barnett & Carson Barnes](#)**Newsletter –** [Véronique Perrot](#) &[Mark Reinke](#)**Orchid Digest Rep –** [David Mellard](#)**2025 Show Chair –** [Danny Lentz](#)**2025 Show Co-Chair –** [Firelli Alonso](#)**Website –** [Danny Lentz](#)**Social Media –** [Firelli Alonso](#)**The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin**

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Newsletter Editors: [Véronique Perrot](#) & [Mark Reinke](#)

The [Atlanta Orchid Society](#) is affiliated with the [American Orchid Society](#), the [Orchid Digest Corporation](#), the [Mid-America Orchid Congress](#), and the [Garden Club of Georgia](#).

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EVENTS CALENDAR**January 2025**

11 – AOS monthly judging

13 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly

Meeting: Chris Satch – Science of orchid care and blooming: understanding orchid physiology

31–2 February – Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show (Gautier, MS)

February 2025

8 – AOS monthly judging

10 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly

Meeting: Peter T. Lin – Spectacular orchids from around the world

21–23 – Mobile Area Orchid Society Show (Mobile, AL)

March

7–9 – Atlanta Orchid Society Show (Atlanta, GA)

8 – AOS monthly judging

10 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting

April

25–27 – Memphis Orchid Society Show (Memphis, TN)

Ribbon Judging Tally for 2024

Our monthly show table is one of the most interesting elements of our meetings—especially when my own plants are stubbornly bloom-less. The 28 households who brought plants over the course of 2024 did to show off (mostly) and for bragging rights. In addition, we award cash prizes for members with the most points for each quarter (\$25) and for the whole year (\$50). Here are the rules, as stated by Danny last year:

“Points are awarded as follows for each ribbon: 5 points for a blue ribbon, 3 points for a red ribbon, 1 point for a white ribbon, and 5 points for a green ribbon. A member can only win one of the four quarterly awards, which typically makes the fourth quarter results very interesting.”

I did the tally this year, using the spreadsheets of ribbon winners and the newsletters. I hope I haven’t missed any-

one’s ribbons; please let me know if I did. Also, let me know if your name gets misspelled.

This year’s winners are:

Q1: Fi and Jon (50 pts.)

Q2: Edison (62 pts.)

Q3: Carson (32 pts.)

Q4: Nick Rust (23 pts.)

Year: Edison (214 pts.).

~ Véronique

	jan	feb	mar	apr	may	june	july	aug	sept	oct	nov	dec	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024
Bailey Santwire	14	7	22	9	9	7	8		5				43	25	13	0	81
Barbara Barnett		1	5	5									6	5	0	0	11
Bob Grzesik										3			0	0	0	3	3
Carl Quattlebaum & JoJo Stickney		8											8	0	0	0	8
Carson Barnes		8	19	21		17	10	22		9	5	1	27	38	32	15	112
Cary Green		12	5				5		12		6		17	0	17	6	40
Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan	9	8	16		9	6	9	3	5	11	6		33	15	17	17	82
Edison Gu	17	13		17	36	9	29	35	16	5	15	22	30	62	80	42	214
Fi Alonso & Jon Crate	16	20	14	13	19	11	12	9	5	15	5	8	50	43	26	28	147
Fred Pippin	1	9		12	12	31		14			20		10	55	14	20	99
Gary Collier & Mark Reinke	11												11	0	0	0	11
Geni Smith								5					0	0	5	0	5
Graham Wyatt				3	1								0	4	0	0	4
HB	5		9										14	0	0	2	16
J. Townes										3			0	0	0	3	3
Janet Sherwood						3	2						0	3	2	0	5
Karl Harden	8		3	3	3	5	5			5			8	11	5	5	29
Larry Kikkert								6					0	0	6	0	6
Loy Xingwen		3		5	8				6				3	13	6	0	22
Margaret Cekis			3			1				1			0	4	0	1	5
Nick Rust						1		5		9	14		0	1	5	23	29
Paul Reams	3												3	0	0	0	3
Paul Revis							13	1	4		3		0	0	18	3	21
Steve Schwab				1					5		5		0	1	5	5	11
Tim Cape		5	3										8	0	0	0	8
Véronique Perrot		1		7							1		1	7	0	1	9
Victoria Schaefer		4	1										5	0	0	0	5
Vinh Nguyen	5			9		9			11	14	7		5	18	11	21	55

President’s Message

Continued from page 1

levels.

Of course, we will continue beloved traditions such as our annual Ice Cream Social—a perfect blend of sweet treats and camaraderie—and the much-anticipated tour of the Atlanta Botanical Garden’s Fuqua Orchid Conservatory. These events offer wonderful opportunities to connect with one another and to marvel at the extraordinary diversity of orchids.

As we begin this new chapter, I encourage each of you to actively participate in our society’s activities and to share your ideas and enthusiasm. Whether you are a seasoned grower or just beginning your orchid journey, there is a place for you here, and your contributions enrich us all.

Thank you for entrusting me with the privilege of serving as your President.

Together, we will make 2025 a year to remember for the Atlanta Orchid Society. Let us nurture our orchids, our friendships, and our collective love for these remarkable plants.

Warm regards,

Firelli “Fi” Alonso
Atlanta Orchid Society President

2025

Orchid Wonderland

63rd Annual Atlanta Orchid Show

| March 7-9, 2025 |



Atlanta Botanical Garden's Day Hall
1345 Piedmont Ave NE
Atlanta, GA 30309

Opening Hours

March 7th & 8th: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday, March 9th: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for December, 2024

Notes by Mark Reinke; photos by Danny Lentz and Jon Crate



Brassavola nodosa 'Mas Mejor' AM/AOS

Class 1: Cattleya Alliance

Blue: *Brassavola nodosa* 'Mas Mejor' AM/AOS – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

The 'Mas Mejor' form of *Brassavola nodosa* dates back to at least 1987, when it received for H&R Nurseries in Oahu both an Award of Merit and a Certificate of Cultural Merit from the American Orchid Society. They exhibited the plant again in 1985 and it received another CCM, and then again in 2006 when it received a 93-point Certificate of

Cultural Excellence. A quick note about the award system for newer members: A flower quality award, such as an Award of Merit, stays with that plant, its divisions and if tissue cultured, its clones, forever. Therefore, it is part of the official name of that form and should be included on your plant tag whenever an example of it is exhibited or displayed. In the case of multiple flower quality awards, the highest ranking one is used. But a cultural award is more of an award to the grower and only applies to the plant as it was at

the time it was judged, so is not carried on as part of the name of that plant or its divisions or clones down the road. It can, however, be an indicator that the specific form that received it may be more vigorous and free blooming than the average example. In the case of *B. nodosa* 'Mas Mejor,' AM/AOS, it is ranked second and third amongst the plants with the most flowers and buds when awarded. In 2000, it had a total of 936 when judged by the Hawaiian Orchid Society. The plant was in a 10 x 15-inch wooden basket and



Brassocattleya Hippodamia

the photo shows a mass of blooms nearly totally obscuring the foliage below. This species usually does its best in a basket with a free draining and open medium that allows the roots to be exposed to the air. It should be watered year-round but dry quickly and completely in between and allowed to stay dry for one or two weeks between waterings in the winter months when the most flowering occurs. It prefers bright light and can tolerate direct sunlight if there is good air movement. However, in most situations it is better to avoid midday sun, especially if the leaves are wet, as water droplets can act as small magnifying glasses and burn the leaves.

**Red: *Brassocattleya Hippodamia* –
Fi Alonso & Jon Crate**

**White: *Cattleya maxima* –
Carson Barnes**



Cattleya maxima



Oncidium maduroi

Class 2: Cymbidium Alliance

No Entries

Class 3: Dendrobium Alliance

No Entries

Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance

No Entries

Class 5: Oncidium Alliance

Blue: *Oncidium maduroi* – Edison Gu

Despite nearly two hundred years' worth of combing through the jungles of Central and South America for orchids, new species continue to be found every year. *Oncidium maduroi*, with up to ninety 1.5-inch flowers on 30-inch inflorescences, was somehow overlooked until the beginning of this century, when it was discovered near the popular tourist

destination of Bocas del Toro in Panamá, which is on the Caribbean coast near its border with Costa Rica. It was found growing well away from the busy beaches in the mountains at between 4000 and 5000 feet above sea level. This zone is cool to mild with year-round rainfall and no dry season. Plants could probably adapt to somewhat warmer conditions but would likely suffer if kept outside through a hot Atlanta summer without careful attention. So far, there are no reg-



Oncidium alexandrae

istered hybrids made with this species, but it is similar to *Oncidium fuscatum*, which is in the background of more than 900 registered crosses.

Red: *Oncidium alexandrae* – Edison Gu

I am so happy, but also pleasantly surprised, to see this cloud forest species from Colombia on our show table so that I could talk about it a bit. I suppose if it ever was going to show up, it would be exhibited by an expert grower such as Edison, as it does not readily adjust to our climate. This species has been known since at least 1845, when it was described as *Odontoglossum crispum* by Lindley. The large, full flowers with crisped edges and many color patterns made it extremely popular in mild climates such as the United Kingdom and our Pacific Northwest. But given that the record high temperatures in its natural range are in the 70s F, it is a challenge to grow in warmer places. But because of its exceptional beauty, hybridization began as early as 1868 and there are now nearly

nine thousand registered crosses that include it in their family tree. And therein lies the problem that continues to cause so many headaches with labeling in the Oncidium Alliance. Modern DNA testing resulted in taxonomists reassigning it to the *Oncidium* genus. But *Onc. crispum* was already taken by another species and so they settled on *Onc. alexandrae*, first applied by Batemen in 1864. Because of the many, many offspring and the popularity of intergeneric hybrids within the breeding group, the man-made genus (nothogenus) names of hundreds of popularly grown orchids were affected. With the name change, many hybrids no longer contained any member of the *Odontoglossum* genus in their genetics. For instance, all the plants labeled as *Beallara* (*Brassia*+*Cochloida*+*Miltonia*+*Odontoglossum*) and *Colmanara* (*Miltonia*+*Odontoglossum*+*Oncidium*) were affected and assigned new nothogenera based on their current species ancestry. A couple of other important species were also reassigned due to DNA testing caus-

ing more changes. This explains why you will see different names on tags depending on when they were printed and the natural reluctance to call something different from what one has always known it to be. A prime example is the ever-popular grex known as Wildcat with its many color variations. Introduced in 1994 as *Colmanara* Wildcat, it became *Odontocidium* Wildcat in 2004 after the species exhibited was reassigned, and then *Oncostele* Wildcat when another species in its background was reassigned from *Odontoglossum* to *Rhyncostele*. While a bit exasperating, it is likely that most of the changes caused by DNA research are now established and few adjustments should occur going forward. If only we could get the wholesale suppliers to quit printing tags with obsolete names on them, the confusion would begin to settle down!



**JOIN THE ORCHID
DIGEST CORPORATION**

Don't let the name fool you, the Orchid Digest is a non-profit membership-based organization dedicated to orchids. Designed to appeal to the mid-range to advanced grower, nothing beats the Orchid Digest. For just \$39/year you get 4 issues of full-color, in-depth articles about orchids. The magazine is large format and the fourth issue of the year is always an extra-special edition devoted to a single genus. For membership application forms contact David Mellard (404-237-1694) or visit www.orchiddigest.com to join online.



Oncidium cheirophorum

Red: *Oncidium cheirophorum* – Edison Gu Class 6: Slipper Alliance

White: *Rhynchostele rossii* – Edison Gu No Entries

White: *Trichocentrum nanum* – Edison Gu Class 7: Phalaenopsis

No Entries

Class 8: Vandaceous Alliance

No Entries



Rhynchostele rossii



Trichocentrum nanum



Masdevallia decumana

Class 9: Miscellaneous

Blue: *Masdevallia decumana* – Edison Gu

This very impressive little species with comparatively large flowers comes from cloud forest habitats in Peru and Ecuador. Luckily, a major part of its range in both countries now lies within protected zones. The wide spreading colorful blooms can be as large as 3.5 inches across, on a plant less than three inches tall. Originally described in 1982, it is a popular member of the genus to cultivate, and there are at least 17 awards given to it by the AOS. All but one of them are for plants grown in the northern tier of states, as would be expected for a species that comes from areas where nights are near 50°F year-round and daytime temperatures almost never exceed 70°F. Edison is doing a spectacular job growing it here in the south. I'm not sure what his growing area is like, but other people I know who do exceptionally well with *Masdevallia* in our area grow them in a specialized enclosure that is cooled to those chilly

night temperatures needed for them to flourish. One couple from the Memphis Orchid Society has converted an old chest freezer with a replaced top made of glass to provide the necessary cool. Even in a greenhouse with cooling pads that keep the temperature in their out-flow limited to the low 80s°F in summer, I have had rather limited success with cloud forest species such as these. It can be difficult to maintain the humidity level they prefer without having a negative affect on other types of orchids in a general collection, so a smaller self-contained space is really the best solution. You also need to be obsessed enough with species such as these to make the necessary effort they require. As would be expected for such a showy species, there are at least 56 first generation registered crosses made using it. Possibly the best of them is *Masd. Copperwing* (x *Masd. vietchiana*), which has at least 17 awards and 27 additional registered offspring. In 2015, a plant of *Masd. Copperwing* exhibited in Bogotá Colombia (elev. 8800 ft) received a Certificate of

Cultural Merit with 46 flowers more than four inches across!

*Cycnoches warszewiczii***Red: *Cycnoches warszewiczii* – Edison Gu**

A top candidate for the showiest species of the genus, *Cycnoches warszewiczii* bears bright chartreuse flowers sometimes over 5 inches across. In 2018, a plant exhibited in its native Costa Rica received a 91-point First Class Certificate with a single inflorescence bearing 13 open flowers and one bud, each over 5.5 inches in spread. It also grows in Panamá and Colombia, in areas that stay warm year-round and have an extended winter dry season. Care for this beauty would be typical for *Catasetum* types. In case you missed it before, I'll mention again that anyone interested in growing this group of orchids should subscribe to Fred Clarke's (Sunset Valley Orchids) newsletter. He sends out detailed growing tips for each season of the year, which if followed, would ensure success even if you are a novice grower.

White: *Promenaea rollissonii* – Edison Gu*Promenaea rollissonii*

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The American Orchid
Society Judging Program
is seeking highly motivated
orchid enthusiasts to join
the judging ranks

Contact us at judges@aos.org